



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONGRESS AUTHORIZES \$2.5 MILLION FOR WATERSHED PROJECTS

Libertyville, IL – Led by Congressman Phil Crane (R-IL), Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL, Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) and the Lake County Board, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) will receive over \$2.5 million for watershed-related projects throughout the county. The funds will provide much needed watershed-level planning and projects to reduce flooding and enhance the natural drainage system to reduce flood damages and improve water quality.

Funded projects include:

- **\$400,000 for the Des Plaines River Phase II (DP Phase II) watershed plan development.** Funding will be applied to the multi-year, multi-objective, multi-jurisdictional watershed plan for the upper portion of this flood-prone watershed that extends from Kenosha County, WI to southern Cook County, IL. The goal of Phase II is to restore the environmental integrity and beneficial uses of the river through the use of non-structural solutions for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration.

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- **\$450,000 for Upper Des Plaines in the ground environmental restoration projects.** Federal funds were allocated in 2001 for restoration project studies and design. This allocation will be used toward the implementation of wetland restoration projects. Several of the projects will be in conjunction with the Lake County Forest Preserve District.
- **\$1.26 million allocation through the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service for (6) sub-watershed plans in the Fox and Lake Michigan watersheds.** Development pressure has the potential to exacerbate the current flooding, water quality, and other problems in the watershed while negatively impacting natural resources. Similar to the Des Plaines plan, development and implementation of the watershed plans will result in the savings of substantial costs associated with cleanup and restoration of water quality and habitat issues, as well as economic damages due to flooding. Sub-watersheds include the Kellogg Creek and Dead River/Bull Creek in Lake Michigan watershed, and Round Lake Drain, Eagle Creek and Fish Lake Drain in the Fox River watershed.
- **\$250,000 allocation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 206 program for the Squaw Creek aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.** In the ground projects will be multi-objective wetland and floodplain restoration projects. The projects may also have some positive effects on flooding along the Round Lake Drain. Squaw Creek includes the Round Lake communities and Hainesville and is the largest sub-watershed in the Fox River watershed.
- **\$200,000 for Sequoit watershed management plan implementation.** Repeated flooding and degraded natural resources are the focus of the plan. Local stakeholders

have been participating in plan development and funding of high priority projects identified in the plan will provide a reduction in flood damages and environmental enhancements in this natural resource-rich watershed.

Another \$2 million was allocated for Des Plaines Phase I construction projects mostly benefiting Cook County.

“Our local Congressional delegation understands what a priority flood damage reduction and environmental restoration is to Lake County. These federal appropriations are dramatic proof of how hard they work to support watershed improvements and how effective they are serving their constituents,” said Steve Mountsier, SMC Chairman.